Is God Really Sovereign

A Brief Commentary

by

Ken Rush

**Introduction**

The purpose in writing this, is to stimulate our thinking, to show that God is sovereign in all He does, and to direct our thought as to what God has done of His own choosing to bring about our salvation. I have tried to put most everything in the form of questions, answered only by the Scripture. Since the Scripture is God given, we must form our opinions according to it. It is easy to put our own ideas and reasoning into our interpretation of the Scripture, and by doing so we often look at what we think **we** have accomplished and leave out the real truth.

*Isa 55:8,9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts*.

*Heb 3:8-10 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.*

**Is GOD Really Sovereign?**

**Does God have the RIGHT to rule our lives?**

*1Corinthians 6:19,20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God,* ***and ye are not your own?*** ***For ye are bought with a price:*** *therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

*Romans 9:21-23 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And* ***that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,***

**Is there salvation without Holy Spirit conviction?**

*John 6:44 No man can come to me,* ***except the Father which hath sent me draw him****: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

**Is that Holy Spirit conviction directed at individuals?**

*Ephesians 2:4,5 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when* ***we were dead in sins****,* ***hath quickened us together*** *with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

*John 16:7-9 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come,* ***he will reprove the world of sin,*** *and of righteousness, and of judgment:*  *Of sin, because they believe not on me;*

**Does God in His sovereignty, choose whom He will?**

*Ephesians 1:4 According as* ***he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world,*** *that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

**Is God unfair if He doesn’t offer everyone the same opportunities?**

*Romans 9:20* ***Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God?*** *Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?*

**Does John 1:13mean that** **that God alone brings about our salvation?**

*John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man,* ***but of God.***

**Does Holy Spirit conviction come to us before we desire salvation?**

*Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were d****ead***  *in trespasses and sins;*

**Who convicts us of our sin? Who gives us the desire to be saved? Who gives us the faith in which to believe? Is this not all of God?**

*Ephesians 2:8,9 For by grace are ye saved through faith;* ***and that not of yourselves****: it is the* ***gift of God:***  *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

**Does man (as some say) have a spark of life enabling him to take the first step? Why then can’t he take the second step, and..........?**

*John 6:63-65* ***It is the spirit that quickeneth****; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that* ***no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father****.*

**Do we by our “decision” receive salvation? Or is it on God’s terms and by God’s convicting power?**

*John 6:37* ***All that the******Father giveth me shall come to me****; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

**Has God set down rules for believers to live by?**

*2 Corinthians 6:17,18 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing;* ***and I will receive you,***  *And will be a Father unto you,* ***and ye shall be my sons and daughters,*** *saith the Lord Almighty.*

**How can a lost sinner, dead in trespasses and sins**, without faith, without desire to change, **choose God?** **Did we choose God? Or did God choose us? When did God choose us?**

*Ephesians 1:4-11 According as* ***he hath chosen us*** *in him* ***before the foundation of the world****, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having* ***predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself****, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

**Did Christ die for ALL men? Did Christ shed His blood in vain?**

*John 10:25,26 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.*

*But ye believe not,* ***because ye are not of my sheep****, as I said unto you.*

**Did Christ shed His blood to save Judas Iscariot?**

*John 6:70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and* ***one of you is a devil****?*

*John 17:12: While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost,* ***but the son of perdition****; that the scripture might be fulfilled.*

**OR did Christ shed His blood only to save the Elect, the Chosen of God?**

*Romans 11:7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for;* ***but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded***

*1Peter 1:2,3 Elect* ***according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,*** *through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

The following is a quote from Dr John Owen:

**“For Whom Did Christ Die?”**

**“The Father imposed His wrath due unto, and the Son underwent punishment for, either:**

1. **All** the sins of **all men**

2. **All** the sins of **some men**, or

3. **Some** of the sins of all men. In Which case it may be said:

a. That if the last be true, **all men have some sins to answer for**, and so **none are saved**.

b. That if the second be true, **then Christ, in their stead suffered for all the sins of all the elect in the world,** and this is true.

c. But if the first be the case, **why are not all men free from punishment due unto their sins?**

Your answer, Because of unbelief. I ask, **is this unbelief a sin, or is it not?** If it be, then Christ suffered punishment due unto it, or He did not. If He did, why must that hinder them more than their other sins for which He died? If He did not, He did not for all their sins!”

*John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but* ***the wrath of God abideth on him.***

**Who is responsible for man’s sin?**

*Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin;* ***and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:***

*Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that* ***they are without excuse:***

A question often asked “If all men are sinners, and all men are responsible for their sin, why is there not an equal way of escape for all men?”

**Dare we judge God by man’s standards? Did God create sin?**

All men are deserving of Hell. **Do we have a right to complain if God chooses to save some?**

*Romans 9:11-16 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then?* ***Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid****.* *For he saith to Moses,* ***I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy****, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy*.

**What happens to a person who refuses to believe on the finished work of our Lord?**

*John 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for* ***if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.***

**What then is the hope for mankind?**

*John 6:28,29 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye* ***believe on him whom he hath sent.***

Conviction is given of God, the faith by which we believe is given of God. **Is even repentance also given of God?**

*2 Timothy 2:25-26 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves;* ***if God peradventure will******give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*** *And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*

*Mark 9:23-24 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears,* ***Lord, I believe****; help thou mine* ***unbelief.***

Since Man is responsible for his own sin, and yet God has chosen those He shall save, before the foundation of the World. **Is this why the work of God is called a Mystery?**

*Ephesians 1:9: Having made known* ***unto us*** *the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself*:

*Romans 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ,* ***according to the revelation of the mystery****, which was kept secret since the world began,*

*1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained* ***before the world unto our glory*:**

*1 Corinthians 2:14 But the* ***natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God:*** *for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned*.

**Who determines God’s call for service?**

*Ephesians 3:8-11* ***Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints****,* ***is this grace given****, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which* ***from the beginning of******the world hath been hid in God****, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,*

*According to the* ***eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:***

**If all is of God, why preach?**

*Mark 16:15,16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

**Has God promised souls for our labor?**

*1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that* ***your labour is not in vain*** *in the Lord*.

**Does God require us to be successful, or only obedient?**

*1 Corinthians 3:7: So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but* ***God that giveth the increase.***

**Should not the fact that God is our Creator, life giver and saviour, cause us to yield to His desires for our life?**

*Romans 12:1,2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God,* ***which is your reasonable service****. And be not conformed to this world:* ***but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind****, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

**Should we not therefore recognize that God’s Sovereignty over our lives is best for us?**

*1Corinthians 6:19,20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and* ***ye are not your own?***  *For ye are bought with a price:* ***therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.***

**Are we safe in God’s hands?**

*Romans 8:33,34 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?* ***It is God that justifieth****. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is* ***even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.***

**Do we have a wonderful Sovereign God in whom we can love and trust?**

**YES WE DO.**

Following are several additional verses of scripture relating to God’s sovereignty. It is worthwhile for us to consider these scriptures, to help us further understand this precious truth.

If we honestly and carefully observe, we will find this truth all through the Bible.

*Ecclesiastes 3:11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.*

*Isaiah 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

*Revelation 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

*Isaiah 42:5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:*

*Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*

*Isaiah 40:28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*

*1Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*

*Job 38:2-11 Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?*

*James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*